

CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF

5th February 2018

held at The Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe.

127. Present: Cllr Webb (Chairman) Cllr Dunbar Dempsey
Cllr Ward Cllr White

128. Attending: Mrs Katy Bourne, Police and Crime Commissioner, was present for Minute 130. A Stevens (Clerk) and six members of the public were also in attendance.

129. Public Session:

Councillor Webb said the Parish Council supports residents' concerns about the works carried out by Highways England on the A27 recently, when the A27 was closed off in both directions. The only route diverted traffic could take was via the Firlie Road. Cars then tried to cut through Langtye Lane which resulted in complete gridlock and the lane is completely wrecked as a result. The County Councillor, District Councillor and MP have all been contacted to get this issue resolved.

Councillor Webb also read the following statement sent by Maria Caulfield, MP;

'As Chair of the A27 Reference Group I want to let you know of the work that is going on regarding the A27.

We are currently putting together the business case for a dual carriageway from Lewes to Eastbourne, which will be submitted to Government in the spring. Once this has been submitted and approved we will be able to begin a consultation on preferred routes and the various options that will be available. The improvements to key junctions which was previously announced will greatly improve the safety of the road for all of its users and encourage other modes of transport, with a cycle lane next to the road. However most people will agree that the ultimate solution to the problems of the A27 will only be solved by a dual carriageway of some sort.

This would not only improve safety for drivers but would also help to boost our local and regional economy by allowing goods and workers to move more freely across the south coast. I will be sure to keep you all at Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council and local residents informed of any developments.

As always please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any concerns or issues'.

130. Mrs Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner:

Role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Mrs Bourne was elected as the East Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in 2012. Police and Crime Commissioners were introduced to replace the Police Authorities because it was felt they did not connect with the public.

As the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mrs Bourne is responsible for setting the strategic direction and priorities for Sussex Police through the Police and Crime Plan and she sets the police budget (£260m). She also holds the Chief Constable of Sussex Police to account for the performance of the police force and she can appoint or dismiss him/her.

Funding

The Police budget has been cut by £88m and whilst the PCC now has permission to raise the police share of the Council Tax by an average £12 per year per household, further cuts are needed.

The New Strategy

A new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system has been introduced. The Surrey, Sussex and Thames Valley Police forces are planning to set up a framework to supply a shared ERP platform with their partners to improve efficiency.

Police Officers now have smart phones which gives them instant access to information and saves each officer an hour a day. Video cameras enable officers to give reports direct to the court, saving 3000 officer hours a year.

The £12 will help protect posts and mean an extra two hundred officers can be employed each year over the next three years.

The nature of crime is changing. Child abuse cases, data, human trafficking, on-line fraud are all nationwide issues which are happening in Sussex too. Criminal gangs are usually behind them and the 'bobby-on the beat' approach does not work anymore. The new strategy is flexible and adapts to all crime including driving offences, burglaries etc. There are also 53 Wildlife Crime Officers who specialise in rural crimes.

How to contact the Police

The police can be contacted by calling 999 (emergencies only), 101 (non-emergencies) or on 01273 404938 (the Local Policing Team, who will respond within 72 hours). Contact can also be made on-line at wealden@sussex.pnn.police.uk, via Crime Stoppers, text, type talk and social media.

Councillors with a special issue can contact the District Commander through the Parish Clerk and the District Commander can be invited to talk about a special issue at Parish Council meetings.

'Prevent'

Prevent is part of the counter terrorism strategy 'Contest'. The aim of CONTEST is to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism and it is organised around four work streams. Each work stream comprises of a number of key objectives which are;

'Pursue' - to stop terrorist attacks;

'Prevent' - to stop 'people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism';

'Protect' - to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack;

'Prepare' - to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

Lewes Bonfire

The policing of each Lewes Bonfire begins soon after the previous one ends. Planning is complicated because there is no single event organiser. Seven Bonfire Societies, Wealden District Council, ESCC, East Sussex Fire and Rescue, South Coast Ambulance and Southern Rail all made the collective decision to restrict access to local people. Additional precautions were made because of the high risk of terrorism, hence the highly visible presence of armed police officers. The fact there were so few arrests and injuries is testament to the policing.

In answer to residents' questions, Mrs Bourne said;

- Police Forces are starting to work with each other and their Partners. Sussex and Surrey Police share information using Niche. Niche is a modern, police records management system especially suitable for large agencies, multi-agency systems and data sharing.
- Her main achievements are introducing video links to police stations and introducing a bespoke victim support service where children are helped through the court system by a specially trained volunteer or member of staff. This means less children back out of giving evidence and there are more successful prosecutions as a result.

In answer to Councillors' questions, Mr Bourne said;

- In the recent cases in Surrey which have collapsed, observations are still on going and Surrey Police will be providing a brief in due course. She pointed out that in each case there is a huge amount of data to process.
- Sussex Police is funded partly from the Council Tax (38%) and partly from Central Government. Sussex residents pay the 5th lowest amount for their police in the country. Sussex police receives the 7th lowest grant from Central Government.
- There are still 200 PCSOs but they are now in Prevention Teams. They are mobile and go where needed. They gather intelligence and their powers have been increased so the police can utilise them more. As a result they work more effectively and their sickness levels have significantly reduced.
- There are still also Special Police but most sign up to the regular police force and have to be replaced.
- The police presence at Lewes Bonfire was highly visible and they were carrying guns because the terrorist threat is still 'severe'.

The meeting was then opened.

131. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor English and were accepted by those present.

132. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 4th January 2018 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman.

In the Minutes of 16th January 2018, Councillors White and Ward asked for the following 'Councillors discussed the application at length. Those who objected re-iterated their original objections and added the following' to be changed to 'Councillors discussed the application at length and objected to the following'.

Councillor also asked for the minutes to record that two councillors voted to support the application and two councillors objected to the application, but it was agreed this was covered by the wording 'The Chairman used his casting vote'.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16th January 2017 were amended, approved and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman

133. Clerk's Report on any Matters' Arising:

Changes to the General Data Protection Regulations will be taking effect from May 2018. The Clerk attended training to find out how those changes will affect Parish Councils. This will be an item on the next agenda.

134. Disclosures of Interest:

There were no disclosures of interest and there were no changes to the Register of Interests.

135. Reports from Outside Meetings:

Councillors Webb and White attended the Wealden Planning Committee South Meeting on 1st February. The planning application for The Old Coach House was approved despite the Parish Council's objections. The Committee asked the Planning Officer to consult with the Conservation Officer concerning the use of plastic windows and doors with a request to change these to timber. Committee members asked the applicant to amend the position of Unit 1 on the application for The Lamb.

136. Planning Applications:

There were no planning applications for commenting on, on this occasion. However, the County Council has received an application under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for a claimed Right of Way at Diplocks Farm (ESCC Reference: RWO/214).

Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council supports the modification.

137. Co-option of New Councillor:

Councillors resolved to co-opt Norma Dashfield onto Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council. Mrs Dashfield will replace Keith Shonfeld.

138. ESCC Waste Consultation:

ESCC is consulting on its Recycling Site proposals. Providing the budget is agreed, the online survey will be available in the link below from 7 February 2018 until 1 May 2018: <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/>.

Councillors resolved to make the following response;

'Residents already pay for household waste disposal through their rates so we object to having to pay more to dispose of soil, rubble and tyres etc. If this extra charge is imposed it will lead to more fly tipping/dumping in rural areas such as ours. We have seen an increase in fly tipping over the last few years and this will only increase. We are not sure how you can say that it will not lead to an increase, where is the evidence of this?

However, we are in favour of saving money, but clearing an increased amount of fly tipping waste will cost money as well.

We are unable to comment on the proposal to close some sites as we don't know which ones are to close and we don't know what the opening hours of the remaining sites will be.'

138. Cheques for Payment:

The following cheques were approved for payment;

A Stevens – Salary – January
ESCC – Pension
Mass Media – Website

Cheque number 101005
Cheque number 101006
Cheque number 101007

139. Questions from Parish Councillors:

Councillor White;

- said the Deanland Road sign in Ripe contradicts the postal address of the adjacent property. which is Ripe Lane. This will be an item for the next Full Council Meeting.
- Asked for 'access only' signs for Church Lane. This will also be discussed at the next meeting.
- Said the cars for sale at the side of the A22 at Golden Cross appear to have been moved on.
- Said he felt the actions of a Councillor at the last meeting were in breach of The Code of Conduct and asked what he can do. He was advised to speak to Trevor Scott, Director of Governance and Corporate Services at Wealden District Council.

Councillors confirmed they would also like to invite the owner of Little Meadow Stud to a future Parish Council Meeting to talk about the work he has done and any plans he has for the future of the Stud.

There were no further questions from Parish Councillors and the meeting closed at 8.55pm.